

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 were rejected. Claim 5 is amended. Claims 5-8 are now pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance.

Rejections of claims 5-6 and 8 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

By the Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained her rejection of claims 5-6 and 8 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,297,554 to Glynn, et al. ("Glynn"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended independent claim 5 to specify that its projection of light onto the sclera is accomplished without the use of a scleral contact lens:

wherein ends of the fibers are formed in such a way that, *without the use of a scleral contact lens*, the exiting light is projected on the sclera of an eye to be examined and transilluminates the sclera

By contrast, Glynn uses a scleral contact lens to illuminate the eye. Specifically, Glynn's description of Figures 8 and 9 provides that a light beam travels "from the fibre 9 towards the lenticular 3" (Glynn, column 8:55-56), where the lenticular forms the center portion of the contact lens. (Glynn, column 6:7-10.) Thus, Glynn does not disclose an illumination unit wherein light is projected on the eye "without the use of a scleral contact lens." It should be noted that "there is nothing inherently ambiguous or uncertain about a negative limitation." *MPEP* § 2173.05(i).

Further, the Advisory Action does not address the specifics of Applicants' argument that Glynn does not disclose an illumination unit "wherein ends of the fibers are formed in such a way that ... the exiting light is *projected on the sclera of an eye to be examined and transilluminates the sclera*," as also required by independent claim 5. Instead, the Examiner simply restates her previous rejection. As stated in Applicant's previous Amendment, Glynn's Figures 8 and 9 clearly show illumination carried out through the cornea and pupil. The previously enclosed Figure A is a basic diagram of the human eye, where the light yellow portion represents the sclera and the dark yellow portion represents the cornea. As can be observed, the sclera and cornea are distinct portions of the eye. Glynn's disclosure of an illumination of the cornea is not a disclosure of an illumination of the sclera.

Regarding dependent claim 6, because Glynn does not disclose transillumination of the sclera, Glynn cannot disclose transillumination of the sclera in the nasal and temporal area.

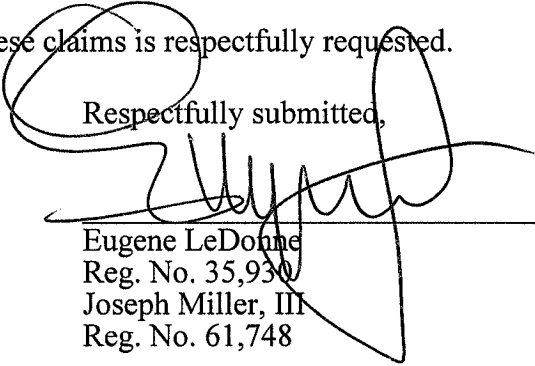
For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Glynn does not disclose each limitation of independent claim 5 or dependent claims 6 and 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

Rejection of claim 7 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner previously rejected claim 7 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Glynn, as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,575,208 to King ("King"). Claim 7 depends from independent claim 5. As claim 5 is allowable, so must be claims 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

An early action on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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